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GLORY

AVENGELYNE

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CANADA

I HAVE KNOWN MANY SORROWS IN MY LIFETIME.
BUT ONE IN PARTICULAR SURPASSES ALL THE REST. A DAY I SHALL NEVER FORGET ...A DAY THAT OCCURRED OVER ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO... ON MY BELOVED ISLE OF PARADISE.. AMAZONIA.
REJOICE, MY CHILDREN--FOR I, YOUR QUEEN FAITH, HAVE BROKEN THE SHACKLES OF SERVITUDE WHICH HAVE BOUND OUR RACE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL!
WE, THE DAUGHTERS OF THE GODDESS ATHENA, HAVE FREED OURSELVES OF MAN'S SLAVERY--AND WE SHALL NOW SET FORTH TO RID THE EARTH OF HIS PUTRID STENCH!
THEN, ONCE OUR SISTER WORLD HAS BEEN CLEANSED, WE SHALL USE THE POWER OF OUR SACRED SCEPTER TO SLAY THE GOD IN HEAVEN WHO SIRED THESE FOUL BEASTS!
LONG LIVE QUEEN FAITH!
FAITH WAS EVERYTHING TO US...QUEEN...MOTHER ...GODDESS. BUT TO ME, SHE WAS LEGEND INCARNATE ...A TRUE HEROINE.

NO!

BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU INTERFERE WITH AMAZONIAN DESTINY?!

CHILDREN OF AMAZONIA, HEAR MY WORDS, FOR I AM ***AVENGELYNE***, A MESSENGER OF THE ONE, ***TRUE GOD!***

YOU ARE AT LAST ***FREE***, BUT A ***DARK SHADOW*** NOW LINGERS OVER YOU. I AM HERE TO CAST THE LIGHT OF TRUTH--AND SAVE YOUR ***SOULS*** FROM THE POISONOUS INFLUENCE OF YOUR OWN HERITAGE!

BY THE RIGHT GRANTED TO ME IN GOD'S OWN WORDS, "SHORTLY I WILL POUR OUT MY ***FURY*** UPON THEE...AND WILL JUDGE THEE ACCORDING TO THY WAYS...AND YE SHALL KNOW THAT I ***AM*** THE LORD!"

AND YOU ARE HIS ***FURY***, ANGEL? YOUR GOD IS ***PATHETIC***--HE FEARS US, THAT'S WHY HE CRAVES OUR DESTRUCTION!

DESTRUCTION AWAITS YOU ALONE, FAITH--NOT YOUR DAUGHTERS.

IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT I, ***PRINCESS GLORIANA DEMETER***, KNEW I HAD TO ACT.

NO!

YOUR SWORD SHALL NEVER DRAW BLOOD FROM MY QUEEN!

HOW DARE YOU ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ***YOUR*** GOD'S WILL UPON US! WE HAVE JUST SPILLED THE BLOOD OF A THOUSAND MEN TO ATTAIN OUR ***FREEDOM***. WE SHALL NOT SIMPLY SURRENDER IT TO HIM!

I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU, CHILD, BUT SHOULD YOU STAND AGAINST ME, I WILL BLIND YOUR EYES AND CONDEMN YOU JUST AS MY FATHER HAS CONDEMNED YOUR QUEEN!

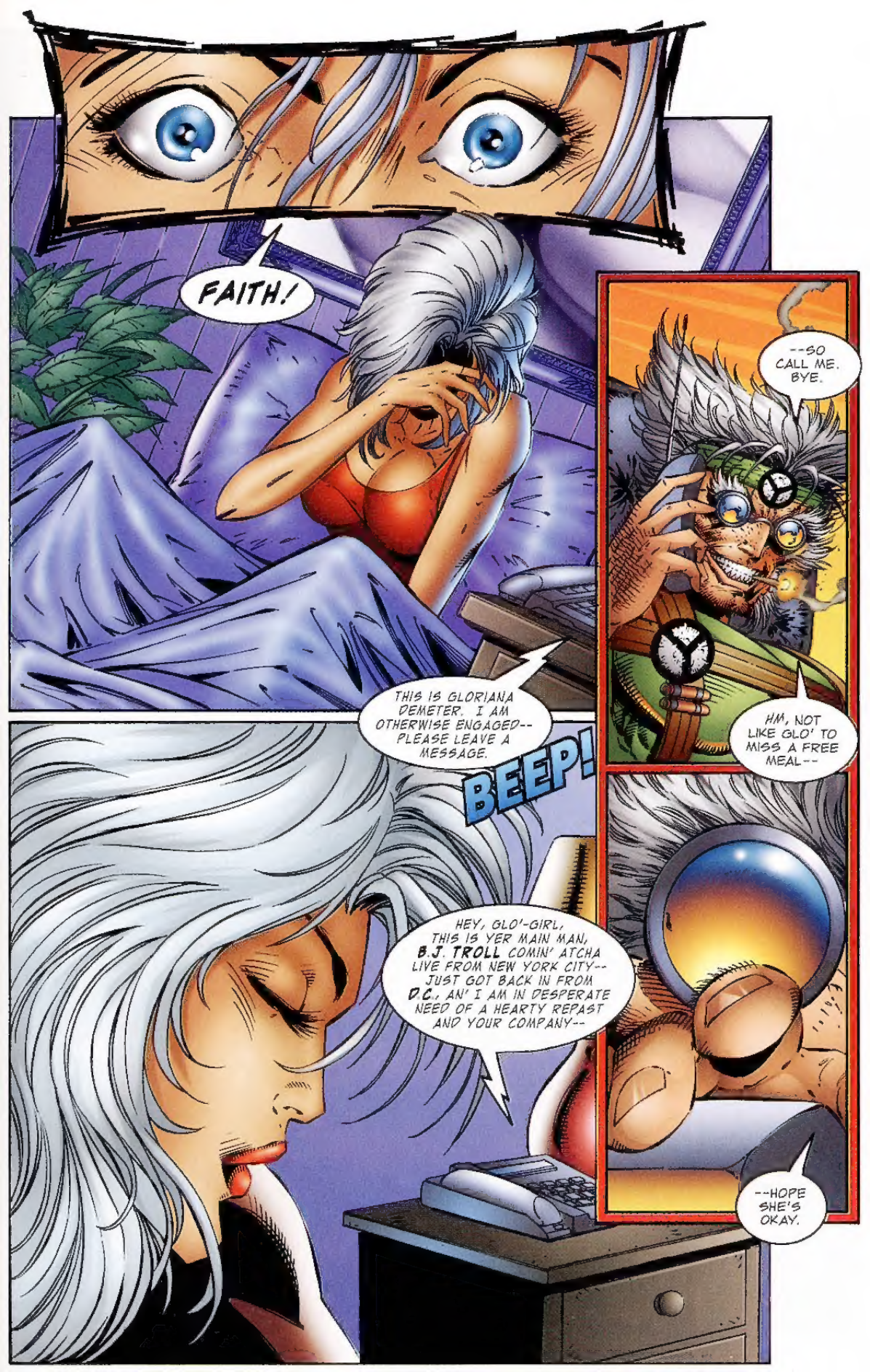
GASP!

BE GONE, FAITH! ***PURGATORY*** AWAITS YOU--

--THE CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR SIN IS ETERNAL ***BANISHMENT!***

NOOOOO!

CHILDREN OF AMAZONIA--YOU HAVE WITNESSED WITH YOUR OWN EYES THE MIGHT OF GOD'S WRATH!
BUT DO NOT HOLD THE HEAVENLY FATHER IN CONTEMPT, FOR IT WAS FAITH WHO BROUGHT ABOUT HER OWN DESTRUCTION BY EMBRACING THE DARKNESS WITHIN HERSELF!
REMEMBER HIS WORDS..."BEHOLD, ALL SOULS ARE MINE... THE SOUL THAT SINNETH SHALL DIE. BUT IF THE WICKED WILL TURN FROM SIN AND DO THAT WHICH IS LAWFUL AND RIGHT, HE SHALL SURELY LIVE!"
F-FAITH...?


FAITH!
--SO CALL ME. BYE.
HM, NOT LIKE GLO' TO MISS A FREE MEAL--
THIS IS GLORIANA DEMETER. I AM OTHERWISE ENGAGED-- PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE.
BEEP!
HEY, GLO'-GIRL, THIS IS YER MAIN MAN, B.J. TROLL COMIN' ATCHA LIVE FROM NEW YORK CITY-- JUST GOT BACK IN FROM D.C., AN' I AM IN DESPERATE NEED OF A HEARTY REPAST AND YOUR COMPANY--
--HOPE SHE'S OKAY.

I'M SORRY, BARTHOLOMEW... NOT TODAY-- I'M JUST...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM. EVER SINCE MY ENCOUNTER WITH AVENGELYNE*, I FEEL AS THOUGH A GHOST FROM THE PAST HAS POSSESSED MY SPIRIT.
I CAN'T SLEEP. . I CAN HARDLY EAT.
AND THE SAME DREAM HAUNTS ME EVERY NIGHT--OVER AND OVER.
WHY. . .WHY AM I OBSESSING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO?
PERHAPS I'M JUST OVERWROUGHT.
TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT RECENTLY--LORD SILVERFALL, DEVLIN--
--BEST THING I CAN DO IS TAKE A NICE LONG WALK IN THE PARK AND TAKE IN SOME OF THAT NOT SO FRESH NEW YORK AIR.
*See Avengelyne/Glory from Maximum Press for all the details--Matt.

A SHORT TIME LATER...
THIS FOUNTAIN...EVER SINCE MY DREAMS BEGAN, I'VE BEEN DRAWN TO IT.
I SUPPOSE IT REMINDS ME OF THE FOUNTAIN IN THE OLD PALACE ON AMAZONIA. WHEN MY MOTHER, LADY DEMETER, SUCCEEDED FAITH AS QUEEN, SHE TURNED THE LARGEST FOUNTAIN INTO A MONUMENT TO OUR FALLEN LEADER.
OH, FAITH... IF ONLY I COULD SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME. PERHAPS THEN, I COULD EXTINGUISH THESE FEELINGS OF GUILT AND MOVE ON.
THEN SPEAK, GLORIANA--AND FREE YOUR HEART.
GASP!
FAITH...?
IT CANNOT BE..!
AYE, SISTER, YET IT IS.
IT IS NOT AN APPARITION WHICH APPEARS BEFORE YOU, IT IS YOUR QUEEN--COME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO RECLAIM HER HERITAGE, AND HER RIGHTFUL PLACE ON THE THRONE!

FAITH, I'VE LONGED FOR THIS DAY SINCE THE MOMENT OF YOUR EXILE. BUT TELL ME, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO ESCAPE?
AN ACCOMPLICE AIDED ME, GLORIANA. BUT THERE WILL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR EXPLANATIONS--
--FIRST WE MUST AVENGE OURSELVES UPON THE ENEMY WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE PROFANES AND DISHONORS ALL AMAZONIANS.
WHAT ENEMY?
THE WRETCH, AVENGELYNE. SHE HAS BEEN EXILED FROM THE RANKS OF HEAVEN AND NOW LIVES AS A MORTAL. SHE IS ALONE AND RIPE FOR OUR REVENGE. AND THERE'S MORE-- BEHOLD...

THE SCEPTER?! BUT I ONLY JUST RETURNED IT TO THE ROYAL VAULT ON AMAZONIA LAST WEEK*!
I VISITED THE ISLE BEFORE COMING HERE AND RECLAIMED IT AS MY OWN. AS QUEEN, THE SCEPTER IS MINE TO COMMAND. I KNOW YOU HAVE ALWAYS FEARED THAT YOUR FATHER, LORD SILVERFALL, WOULD STEAL IT
*Following the events of Avengelyne/Glory--Matt
HE IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN HARNESS ITS POWER, BUT I PROMISE YOU IT WILL BE SAFE WITH ME. TONIGHT, WE SHALL USE IT TO SLAY THE FALLEN ANGEL!
MILADY. I'VE SEEN AVENGELYNE IN RECENT WEEKS AND SHE'S DIFFERENT NOW
DIFFERENT?!
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER WHAT SHE DID TO ME, GLORIANA?
FOR A THOUSAND YEARS I SUFFERED IN PURGATORY! AND NOW YOU WISH TO SHOW HER MERCY?!
PERHAPS IT IS YOU WHO IS DIFFERENT, GLORIANA. PERHAPS YOU STILL LACK THE STRENGTH TO DEFEND YOUR QUEEN. POSSIBLY YOUR HEART NO LONGER BURNS WITH THE FIRE OF AMAZONIA!
NO, FAITH--YOU'RE WRONG!

"GOOD--THEN YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE IT WE ATTACK AVENGELYNE TONIGHT."

LATER.

MIND YOUR TONGUE, WOMAN! DID YOU SPEAK WITH GLORY? DID SHE AGREE TO YOUR PLAN?

COME FORTH TIME IS GROWING SHORT AND THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE!

OF COURSE, SHE AGREED --I AM HER QUEEN, AM I NOT?

SHE DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT THAT YOU ***INFLUENCED*** HER DREAMS WITH THE REOCCURRING MEMORY OF THE ANGEL'S ATTACK ON THE ISLAND --SHE'S SO RIDDLED WITH GUILT, SHE'LL DO ANYTHING I SAY.

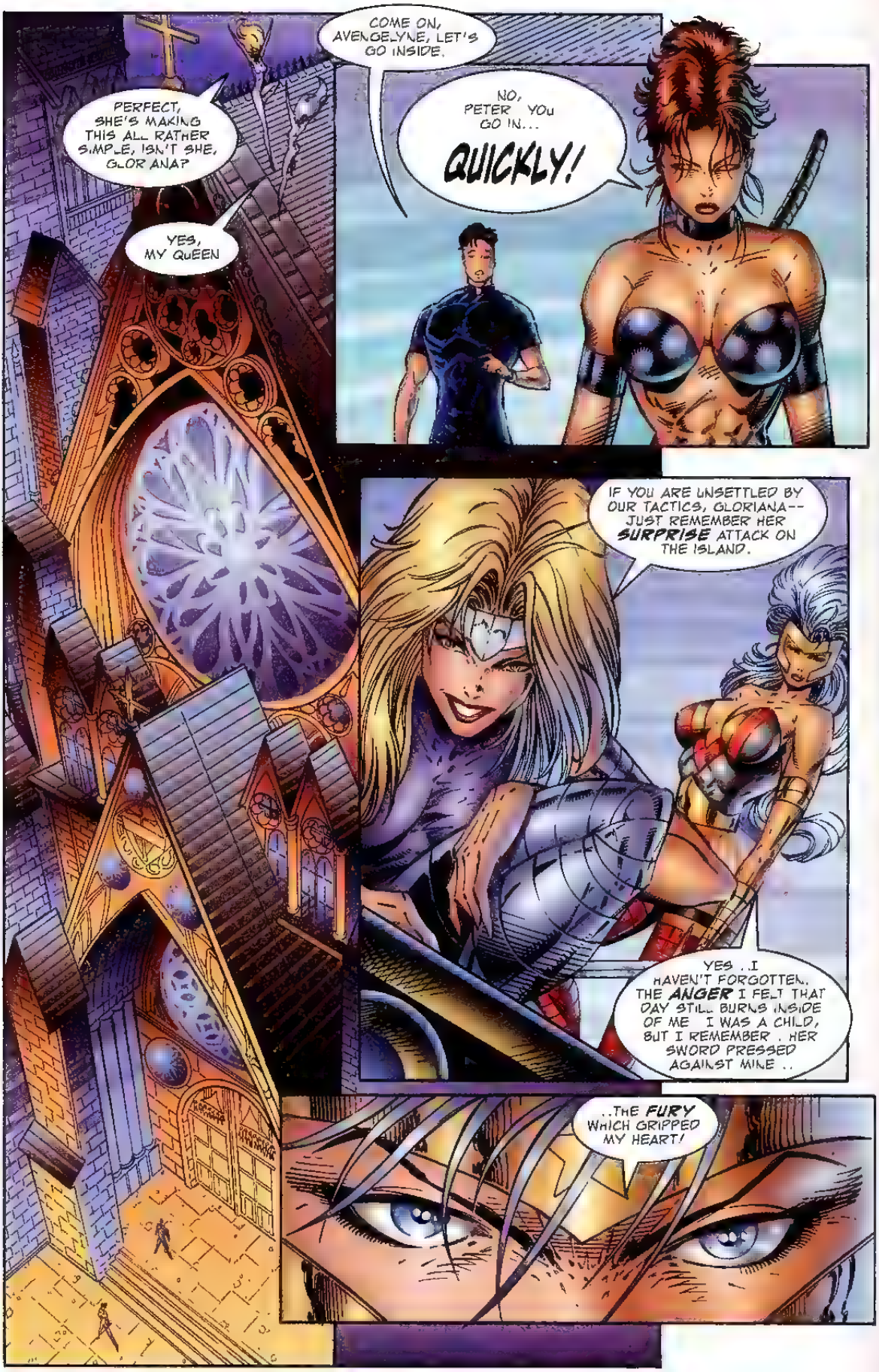
EXCELLENT, FAITH--

ONCE AVENGELYNE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED YOU SHALL BRING THE SCEPTER TO ME AND SHOW ME THE SECRET OF HOW I CAN SAFELY UNLOCK ITS POWER.

SHOULD YOU AT ANY POINT CONSIDER BETRAYING ME, DO REMEMBER THAT IT WAS I WHO RELEASED YOU FROM PURGATORY, AND IT IS I WHO CAN PUT YOU BACK!*

* For more on B'lial's escape from Purgatory, be sure to check out ASYLUM #1 -coming soon!

LATER...
AVENGELYNE, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
EVER SINCE DEVLIN WARNED ME ABOUT LORD B'LIALE'S ESCAPE FROM PURGATORY, I'VE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY A FEELING OF IMMINENT DANGER.
SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN. TONIGHT!


PERFECT, SHE'S MAKING THIS ALL RATHER SIMPLE, ISN'T SHE, GLORIANA?
YES, MY QUEEN
COME ON, AVENGELYNE, LET'S GO INSIDE.
NO, PETER YOU GO IN...
QUICKLY!
IF YOU ARE UNSETTLED BY OUR TACTICS, GLORIANA-- JUST REMEMBER HER SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE ISLAND.
YES . I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN. THE ANGER I FELT THAT DAY STILL BURNS INSIDE OF ME I WAS A CHILD, BUT I REMEMBER . HER SWORD PRESSED AGAINST MINE ..
..THE FURY WHICH GRIPPED MY HEART!

ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!
GLORY?!

I WAS A **FOOL** TO HAVE PITIED YOU, AVENGELYNE--

--WHERE WAS **PITY** WHEN YOU INVADED OUR LAND AND EXILED OUR QUEEN TO SATISFY **YOUR** GOD?!

YOU KNOW WHY I DID THAT, GLORY--FAITH HAD BEEN CONSUMED BY EVIL--WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ATTACK HER!

KLANK!

GLORY, PLEASE **STOP** THIS!

SILENCE!

KRAK

UGH!

KRAK

I'LL STOP-- ONCE YOU'VE PAID FOR FAITH'S EXILE--

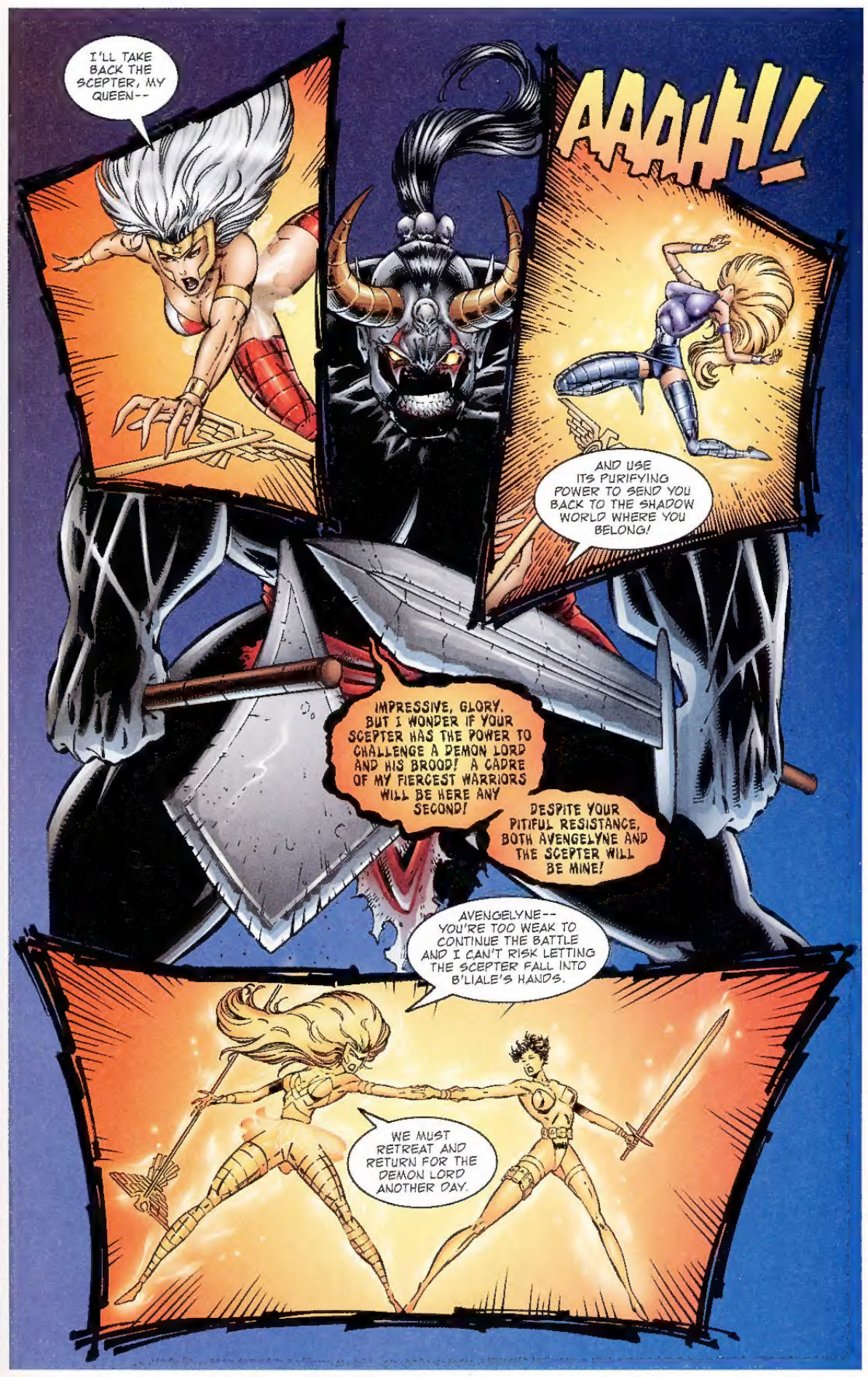
--WITH YOUR LIFE!
ARGH!
WAK

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD!
F-FATHER HELP ME
YES, MY CHILD-- FINISH HER-- SEND HER BACK TO HEAVEN!
SEND HER WITH ONE FATAL BLOW BACK TO THE GOD THAT CREATED HER!
WH-WHAT AM I DOING?
MY QUEEN
FORGIVE ME
I CANNOT

SHORTLY...
SINCE YOU COULD NOT BRING YOURSELF TO SLAY OUR ENEMY, WE SHALL MAKE A PRESENT OF HER TO THE ACCOMPLICE I TOLD YOU ABOUT EARLIER...
GREETINGS, LORD B'LIALE. I'VE BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT.
AVENGELYNE...I'VE LONGED FOR THIS MOMENT EVER SINCE YOU IMPRISONED ME IN THAT GODFORSAKEN PURGATORY.
TONIGHT I CLAIM TWO PRIZES...THE SCEPTER OF AMAZONIA...AND THE LEGENDARY AVENGELYNE.
B'LIALE IS THE DEMON LORD AVENGELYNE TOLD ME ABOUT AFTER OUR FIGHT WITH DEVLIN. HOW COULD FAITH DARE SHOW HIM THE SECRET OF THE SCEPTER'S POWER?
AVENGELYNE--
--FORGIVE MY BLIND ALLEGIANCE MY EYES HAVE FINALLY BEEN OPENED TO THE EVIL WITHIN FAITH'S HEART

I'LL LEAVE B'LIALE TO YOU--
--WHILE I HOLD COURT WITH QUEEN FAITH!
THIS TIME, B'LIALE, YOU WILL NOT RETURN FROM THE BOWELS OF OBLIVION!
--YOU WERE FORTUNATE TO DEFEAT ME ONCE, ANGEL--I ASSURE YOU THAT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

KLAK
YOUR HEART IS NO LONGER AMAZONIAN--YOU'VE BETRAYED YOUR OWN KIND!
I BELIEVE THAT DISTINCTION IS YOURS, MY QUEEN!
THOK!
IT SEEMS YOU ARE NOT AS EFFECTIVE A COMBATANT WITHOUT YOUR LITTLE PRIEST!
RGH!
AVENGELYNE WAS WEAKENED BY MY ATTACK, SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO COMBAT B'LIALE--SHE'LL BE KILLED UNLESS I ACT NOW!


I'LL TAKE BACK THE SCEPTER, MY QUEEN--
AAAAH!
AND USE ITS PURIFYING POWER TO SEND YOU BACK TO THE SHADOW WORLD WHERE YOU BELONG!
IMPRESSIVE, GLORY. BUT I WONDER IF YOUR SCEPTER HAS THE POWER TO CHALLENGE A DEMON LORD AND HIS BROOD! A CADRE OF MY FIERCEST WARRIORS WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND!
DESPITE YOUR PITIFUL RESISTANCE, BOTH AVENGELYNE AND THE SCEPTER WILL BE MINE!
AVENGELYNE-- YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE AND I CAN'T RISK LETTING THE SCEPTER FALL INTO B'LIALE'S HANDS.
WE MUST RETREAT AND RETURN FOR THE DEMON LORD ANOTHER DAY.

LATER...

WHAT'S WRONG, GLORY?

IT'S IRONIC. YOUR LOVE FOR DEVLIN* ***BETRAYED*** YOU AND NOW I TOO HAVE FALLEN PREY TO ITS INFLUENCE.

*Also in Avengelyne/Glory! --Matt.

I LOVED FAITH... ***WORSHIPPED*** HER AS MY QUEEN. I COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THE EVIL WITHIN HER. TODAY, ***OR*** A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

I MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY KILLED YOU--

BUT YOU DIDN'T, GLORY, YOU ***SAVED*** ME, AND FOR THAT YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

MERCIFUL GODDESS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

OH...I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU, I WAS MERELY TRYING TO EXPRESS MY ***GRATITUDE***.

IT IS THE WAY OF MY KIND.

IT TOOK GREAT COURAGE TO DO WHAT YOU DID TODAY, AND THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE LOST A QUEEN...

...YOU HAVE GAINED A ***FRIEND*** FOREVER.

END

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